

# Center for Environmental Health

New York State Department of Health  
Flanigan Square, 547 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180-2216

*Welcome to the New York State Department of Health's  
Center for Environmental Health.*

The Center applies scientific, medical, engineering, and public health expertise to identify, understand, prevent, and mitigate risks to human health from New York State's living and working environments. This directory describes the environmental health responsibilities and activities for each division, bureau, and program group within the Center.

NYSDOH regional offices and local health departments (NYSDOH district offices, county health departments, and the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene) are listed on pages 10 and 11.

## Telephone Directory

<b>Environmental Health Information Line</b>	<b>800-458-1158</b>
<b>Office of the Director</b>	<b>518 402-7500</b>
Information Systems & Technology Unit	518 402-7474
Outreach & Education Group	518 402-7530
Public Health Preparedness Program	518 402-7713
<b>Division of Environmental Health Assessment</b>	<b>518 402-7511</b>
Bureau of Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology	518 402-7950
Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment	518 402-7800
<b>Division of Environmental Health Protection</b>	<b>518 402-7510</b>
Bureau of Environmental Radiation Protection	518 402-7550
Bureau of Community Environmental Health & Food Protection	518 402-7600
Bureau of Water Supply Protection	518 402-7650
Field Coordination Unit	518 402-7510
<b>Division of Environmental Health Investigation</b>	<b>518 402-7501</b>
Bureau of Occupational Health	518 402-7900
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation	518 402-7850

A DOH duty officer is available during non-working hours (holidays, nights, and weekends). The duty officer receives and refers, as necessary, official communications from the Governor's Office, NYS Police, NYS Office of Emergency Management, or other agencies. In addition, the duty officer handles calls from the general public reporting urgent public health concerns.

**After-Hours Duty Officer** 866-881-2809  
**Center Staff E-mail Address** [ceheduc@health.state.ny.us](mailto:ceheduc@health.state.ny.us)  
**Center for Environmental Health Web Site Information**  
[www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/](http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/)

## **CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH** Room 500

**518 402-7500**  
**Director**  
**Health Program Administrator**

**Fax 518 402-7509**  
**Ronald Tramontano**  
**Marion LaPoint**

The Office of the Center Director provides overall executive direction for environmental health programs. In addition to supervision of central office staff, the office works closely with regional office staff to coordinate the oversight of environmental health program activities implemented by the Department's nine district offices, 36 county health departments, and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

## **Information Systems & Technology Unit** Room 325

**518 402-7474**  
**Network Administration**  
**& Resource Development**  
**Data Systems, Administration & Support**  
**Application Development**

**Fax 518 402-7499**  
**John Bintz**  
**Victor Friedman**  
**Kim Mann**

Unit staff provide comprehensive computer services to the Center and local health units including district offices, regional offices, and county health departments. Staff provide support in the following areas:

- network, intranet, and internet solutions to enhance electronic communication;
- systems analysis, database design, and application development; and
- design and maintenance of centralized environmental health data systems.

## **Outreach & Education Group** Room 316

**518 402-7530**  
**Director**

**Fax 518 402-7539**  
**Faith Schottenfeld**

The Group maintains communication with Center staff and the public to raise awareness, increase understanding, and respond to concerns about environmental health issues. The Group is responsible for:

- coordinating the Center's response to the public regarding environmental health issues;
- coordinating community involvement and public participation for a wide range of programs across Center bureaus and divisions;
- identifying educational and outreach needs for diverse audiences;
- developing key messages and designing and preparing information packages;
- creating fact sheets, brochures, flyers, posters, videos, presentations and exhibits; and

- managing the Environmental Health Infoline.

The Center maintains a toll-free environmental health information line to encourage and simplify communication with the public. The number is 1-800-458-1158. The infoline is staffed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. After-hours callers can leave a message. Calls are routed by computer from an electronic menu, or operators will route the calls. To reach the extension for any of the Center programs listed, dial the last 5 digits of the program's phone number. (For example, the Outreach and Education Group can be reached by dialing 27530.)

## **Public Health Preparedness Program**

**Room 400**

**518 402-7713**

**Associate Director**

**Associate Director**

**Fax 518 402-7723**

**William Bullard**

**Michael Primeau**

This Program is responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the Department's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities. It serves as the Department's liaison to New York State's Emergency Management Office (SEMO) and other state and federal agencies important in emergency management. PHPP staff also manage the DOH duty officer program.

PHPP is responsible for the following functions:

- emergency management support for response and recovery operations;
- Health Desk staffing and management at the State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), including maintaining a roster of staff ready for ECC operations, scheduling, and primary staffing during emergency response operations;
- infrastructure and staff support for the Department's Incident Management System;
- logistics coordination of Department resources, staff, and/or equipment and supplies in preparedness, response, and recovery operations;
- direct liaison with SEMO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for requesting, receiving, and distributing the federal Strategic National Stockpile and/or Vendor Managed Inventory; and
- logistics coordination for specialized state-controlled stockpiles maintained by the Department for quick access and mobilization.

## Division of Environmental Health Assessment

Room 500

**518 402-7511**  
**Director**  
**Associate Director**  
**Research Scientist**

**Fax 518 402-7509**  
**Nancy Kim, Ph.D.**  
**John Wilson**  
**Edward Horn, Ph.D.**

The Division provides environmental epidemiological, toxicological, and risk assessment expertise in support of the Center's and New York's environmental health and protection programs. The Division employs biologists, chemists, toxicologists, epidemiologists, statisticians, physicians, and other public health professionals to provide a sound scientific foundation for environmental health policies and regulations in the state.

Staff evaluate the health effects of exposure to chemical, physical, and microbiological agents in the environment, and characterize the risks posed by these exposures. Epidemiological methods are used to identify and measure the influence of environmental factors on human disease in the community. The Division is composed of two bureaus.

## Bureau of Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology

Room 200

**518 402-7950**  
**Director**

**Fax 518 402-7959**  
**Syni-An Hwang, Ph.D.**

Bureau staff study, monitor, and evaluate the effects of exposure to toxic substances at home, at work, and in the community. The Bureau is responsible for:

- epidemiological studies to help identify environmental risk factors;
- geographic information system maps of disease and risk factors;
- surveillance and research of congenital malformations;
- registries of people exposed to environmental risk factors to monitor their health status over time;
- exposure investigations to identify and reduce environmental health risks; and
- public education regarding environmental and occupational exposures and health risks.

### **The Bureau has five sections:**

Community Exposure Research Section	Elizabeth Lewis-Michl, Ph.D.
Environmental Health Surveillance Section	Thomas Talbot
Special Studies, Statistical & Support Section	Lenore Gensburg
Epidemiologic Studies & Evaluation Section	Shao Lin, Ph.D.
Congenital Malformations Registry & Research Section	Philip Cross
	Charlotte Druschel, M.D., Medical Director

## **Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment**

**Room 330**

**518 402-7800**

**Director**

**Assistant Director**

**Fax 518 402-7819**

**Daniel Luttinger, Ph.D.**

**Kevin Gleason**

Bureau staff assess the potential for exposures and risks when people come in contact with toxic substances through air, water, soil, and food.

Bureau staff:

- assess exposures and risks associated with contaminated sites;
- evaluate pesticides registered in the state to determine their potential to pose significant risks to public health;
- develop annual sportfish and game consumption advisories;
- perform indoor air quality assessments for schools and other public buildings;
- assist in the development of drinking water and ambient water standards and guidelines;
- assess potential public health impacts of electric generating facilities, incinerators and other sources;
- manage the Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance Program; and
- provide information for responding to instances of chemical and biological releases/exposures.

### **The Bureau has four sections:**

Toxicological Assessment Section

Indoor Health Assessment Section

Exposure Assessment Section

Hazardous Substance Events

Surveillance Section

Jan Storm, Ph.D.

Gerald McDonald

Judith Abbott

Wanda Welles, Ph.D.

## **Division of Environmental Health Protection**

**Room 500**

**518 402-7510**

**Director**

**Assistant Director**

**Fax 518 402-7519**

**Richard Svenson, P.E.**

**Richard Bills**

The Division houses most of the Center's statutory regulatory programs designed to minimize environmental health threats. Some of the programs protect the population at large, such as public drinking water supplies, food safety in restaurants, sanitation/fire safety in hotels, and radiation safety. Other programs target populations needing specific interventions to prevent illness, such as preventing lead poisoning and ensuring migrant worker health. The Division is composed of one unit and three bureaus.

## **Field Coordination Unit**

**Room 515**

**518 402-7510**

**Fax 518 402-7509**

**Claudine Jones Rafferty**

**Dennis Croswell**

**Roger France, P.E.**

Unit staff work closely with the Regional Environmental Health Directors and act as the chief liaison between regional staff and Center for Environmental Health staff, primarily the Division of Environmental Health Protection. The unit staff also work closely with local health departments, including DOH district offices. Unit staff coordinate with regional staff in monitoring and oversight of the implementation of environmental health programs. This includes assisting with planning and training, and facilitating communication and cooperation, as well as evaluation of data management, inspection, and enforcement programs.

Unit Staff also work with central, regional, and field staff to support professional development of environmental health staff and to standardize program delivery. The unit manages the Division's professional engineer continuing education credit program.

## **Bureau of Community Environmental Health & Food Protection**

**Room 515**

**518 402-7600**

**Fax 518 402-7609**

**Director**

**Michael Cambridge, R.S.**

**Assistant Director**

**Douglas Sackett**

Bureau staff develop, coordinate, and evaluate regulatory programs and advise individuals about preventing environmental illnesses and injuries in the home and recreationally. Bureau staff respond to questions and concerns about:

- food-borne illnesses;
- residential and recreational injuries;
- public health nuisances;
- drowning and bathing emergencies;
- fire safety;
- restaurant sanitation;
- lead paint hazards in homes;
- tobacco access by minors;
- environmental tobacco smoke control; and
- any of the regulated facilities.

### **The Bureau has four sections:**

Food Protection Section

Barbara Gerzonich, R.S.

Recreational Environmental Health Section

Timothy Shay

Housing Hygiene Section

Thomas Carroll

Tobacco Enforcement Section

Brian Miner

## **Bureau of Environmental Radiation Protection** Room 530

**518 402-7550**

**Director**

**Assistant Director**

**Fax 518 402-7554**

**Adela Salame-Alfie, Ph.D.**

**Stephen Gavitt, C.H.P.**

Bureau staff address public health risks from exposure to radiation and respond to questions and concerns about:

- home testing for radon and radon reduction measures;
- health effects from radiation, including electromagnetic fields;
- use of X-ray machines or other radiation sources;
- licensing of radioactive material users;
- licensing of radiologic technologists;
- any site-related radiation concerns;
- low-level radioactive waste disposal;
- response to radiation emergencies or incidents; and
- nuclear reactor safety.

### **The Bureau has four sections:**

Radiation Equipment Section

Radioactive Materials Section

Environmental Radiation/Radon Section

Emergency Response Section

Thomas Miller

Robert Dansereau

Robert Snyder

Cynthia Costello

## **Bureau of Water Supply Protection** Room 400

**518 402-7650**

**Acting Director**

**Fax 518 402-7659**

**John Dunn, P.E.**

Bureau staff regulate water suppliers in the state and respond to questions and concerns about the following:

- reports of water-related illness;
- water quality, advisories, or problems with a water provider;
- water treatment and the design of water treatment systems;
- water system security, emergency preparedness, and response;
- water related research and environmental risk assessment;
- water related critical infrastructure protection and geographic information system support;
- practical ways to reduce exposure to possible contaminants in drinking water;
- watershed protection;
- standards for water treatment and quality;
- water system improvement funding;
- small system technical assistance;
- bottled and bulk water provider certification;
- water treatment and distribution system operator certification; and
- private residential water and onsite wastewater treatment systems.

**The Bureau has three groups with nine sections:**

**Technical Group**

Design Section  
Operations Section  
Residential Sanitation Section

**Craig Jackson, P.E.**

Michael Montysko, P.E.  
David Phillips, P.E.  
Ben Pierson, P.E.

**Program Group**

Compliance Section  
Program Implementation Section  
Information Systems Section

**Thomas Hart**

Tina Hunt, P.E.  
Charles Amento  
Thomas Hart

**Source Protection Group**

Source Water Protection Section  
New York City Watershed Section  
Professional Certification Section

**Teresa Boepple-Swider, P.E.**

Lloyd Wilson, Ph.D.  
Roger Sokol, Ph.D.  
Teresa Boepple-Swider, P.E.

## **Division of Environmental Health Investigation**

**Room 500**

**518 402-7501**

**Director**

**Associate Director**

**Assistant Director**

**Fax 518 402-7519**

**G. Anders Carlson, Ph.D.**

**Anthony Grey, Ph.D.**

**Constance Madigan**

The Division is responsible for overseeing programs that identify environmental and occupational risk factors, evaluate those exposures, and implement programs to reduce morbidity and mortality by recommending appropriate interventions. It is also responsible for coordinating DOH programs that investigate and mitigate the impact of hazardous waste on the health of NYS citizens. Its two bureaus utilize the skills of physicians, epidemiologists, industrial hygienists, engineers, technical specialists, and other public health professionals to address these public health issues.

## **Bureau of Occupational Health**

**Room 230**

**518 402-7900**

**Director**

**Medical Director**

**Fax 518 402-7909**

**Eileen Franko, Dr. P.H., M.P.H.**

**Matthew Mauer, D.O., M.P.H.**

Bureau staff monitor and address work-related illness and injury, provide work-site consultation service, and oversee a statewide network of clinics specializing in diagnosis and prevention of occupational diseases. Staff respond to questions and concerns regarding:

- work-related illness and hazardous exposures;
- certification and training of asbestos-removal workers;
- agricultural safety and health;



- occupationally related deaths;
- work-sites affected by transmission of tuberculosis; and
- reporting to environmental disease registries for
  - Heavy Metal Poisoning (lead, arsenic, cadmium, mercury)
  - Occupational Lung Diseases (asthma, asbestosis, silicosis, etc.)
  - Pesticide Poisonings.

**The Bureau has six sections:**

Pesticide Poisoning Registry	Robert Stone, Ph.D.
Data Management	David Marion
Asbestos Worker Training Certification	Richard Davis
Industrial Hygiene Intervention	Nicholas Pavelchak
Epidemiologic Surveillance & Occupational Health Clinic Network	Kitty Gelberg, M.P.H., Ph.D.
Occupational Medicine	Matthew Mauer, D.O., M.P.H.

**Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation      Room 300**

**518 402-7850**

**Director**

**Assistant Director**

**Fax 518 402-7859**

**Gary Litwin**

**Steven Bates, P.E.**

Bureau staff investigate the potential for human exposure from environmental contamination, primarily at inactive hazardous waste sites. Activities include water sampling and treatment; dump site, construction site, and spill investigations; and emergency event investigations. For every state, federal Superfund, Brownfield, and voluntary clean-up site, a Bureau specialist is assigned to coordinate and communicate health-related activities. In addition, Bureau staff prepare public health assessments for federal Superfund sites under an agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Staff also conduct exposure investigations as part of the state's Cancer Surveillance Improvement Initiative.

**The Bureau has five sections and one unit:**

Southern Section	Geoffrey Laccetti
Long Island Section	Richard Fedigan
Western Section	Mark VanValkenburg
Eastern Section	Michael Rivara
ATSDR/Cancer Mapping Section	Donald Miles
Reporting & Management Unit	Michael Arnold

## NYSDOH Regional and Field Structure

Regional, district, county, and city health departments carry out environmental health programs to ensure that suitable water, food, housing, and recreational facilities are provided to the public. County health departments and district offices identify, investigate, and resolve actual and potential health hazards caused by environmental factors. Telephone numbers for regional, district, county, and city health departments are listed below. A map of the regional and field structure is on page 12.

### Western Region      Buffalo, Rochester 585 423-8072

**Regional Environmental Health Program Director**      Ralph VanHouten

Geneva District Office      Nicholas Rich, Director      315 789-3030  
(Ontario, Wayne, Yates)

Hornell District Office      Thomas Klaseus, Director      607 324-8371  
(Steuben, Schuyler)

Allegany	585 268-9250	Livingston	585 243-7280
Cattaraugus	716 373-8050	Monroe	585 274-6067
Chautauqua	716 753-4481	Niagara	716 439-7444
Chemung	607 737-2019	Orleans	585 589-3272
Erie	716 858-6089	Seneca	315 539-1945
Genesee	585 344-8506	Wyoming	585 786-8894

### Central Region      Syracuse      315 477-8100

**Regional Environmental Health Program Director**      Ronald Heerkens

Canton District Office      Victor Pisani, Director      315 386-1040  
(St. Lawrence)

Watertown District Office      Thomas Boxberger, Dir.      315 785-2277  
(Jefferson, Lewis)

Broome	607 778-2887	Oneida	315 798-5064
Cayuga	315 253-1405	Onondaga	315 435-6623
Chenango	607 337-1673	Oswego	315 349-3564
Cortland	607 753-5035	Tioga	607 687-8600
Madison	315 366-2526	Tompkins	607 274-6688

**Capital Region      Troy                      518 408-5423**

**Regional Environmental Health Program Director**      J. Patrick Trapp

Glens Falls District Office (Saratoga, Warren, Washington)	Anita Gabalski, Director	518 793-3893
Herkimer District Office (Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery)	Donald Van Patten, Director	315 866-6879
Oneonta District Office (Delaware, Greene, Otsego)	Robert Pierce, Director	607 432-3911
Saranac Lake District Office (Essex, Franklin, Hamilton)	William Amberman, Director	518 891-1800
Albany	518 447-4620	Rensselaer 518 270-2674
Clinton	518 565-4870	Schenectady 518 386-2818
Columbia	518 828-3358	Schoharie 518 295-8382

**Metropolitan Region   New York City    212 268-7185**

**Regional Environmental Health Program Director**      Brian Devine  
(Located in Monticello District Office)      845-794-2045

New Rochelle Field Office	914 654-7000
Central Islip Field Office	631 851-3087
Monticello District Office (Sullivan)	Mark Knudsen, Director    845 794-2045
Dutchess	845 486-3404
Nassau	516 571-3410
Orange	845 291-2331
Putnam	845 278-6130
Rockland	845 364-2608
Suffolk	631 853-3058
Ulster	845 340-3150
Westchester	914 813-5000

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene    212-639-9675 or 311  
(311 can only be used within NYC)